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February 25, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
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Art Unit 1651

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 10/046,667; Filed: January 16, 2002
For: **Reagent for the Isolation of RNA**
Inventor: Domenica Simms
Our Ref: 0942.5220001/RWE/CJW

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Fee Transmittal (Form PTO/SB/17);
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1);
3. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, with courtesy copies of pages 3 and 4 of Form PTO-1449 filed August 7, 2002;
4. Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 for \$1,022.00 to cover:
\$ 72.00 Claims in excess of twenty; and
\$ 950.00 Extension for response within third month; and
5. Return postcard.

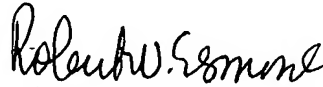
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
February 25, 2004
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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RWE/dab
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Enclosures